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**TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP  
of the  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS'**

**March 27, 2007  
Minutes**

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**THE FOLLOWING MINUTES ARE A SUMMARY OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE TRANSPORTATION CONFORMITY WORKING GROUP. AN AUDIOCASSETTE TAPE OF THE ACTUAL MEETING IS AVAILABLE FOR LISTENING IN SCAG'S OFFICE.**

The Transportation Conformity Working Group held its meeting at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.

**In Attendance:**

Alcock, Joe	SCAG
Amatya, Naresh	SCAG
Asuncion, John	SCAG
Ayala, Rosemary	SCAG
Del Rosario, Sheryll	SCAG
Huddleston, Lori	Metro
McAllester, Brad	Metro
Nadler, Jonathan	SCAG
Poe, Lisa	SANBAG
Sells, Eyvonne	SCAQMD
Sherwood, Arnie	ITS UC Berkley/SCAG
Walecka, Carla	Transportation Corridor Agencies
Williams, Leann	Caltrans District 7

**Via Teleconference:**

Alameddine, Sam	Caltrans District 7
Brady, Mike	Caltrans Headquarters
Behtash, Arman	Caltrans District 12
Danrath, Garrett	Caltrans District 7
Ewing, Andrew	Caltrans District 7
Fagan, Paul	Caltrans District 8
Gallo, Ilene	Caltrans Headquarters
Kosinski, Ron	Caltrans District 7
Mazur, Jean	FHWA

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**1.0 CALL TO ORDER**

Brad McAllester, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

**2.0 PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Arnie Sherwood, ITS UC Berkley/SCAG, announced that he was teaching a 1-day conformity course on March 29<sup>th</sup> from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Ayres Hotel, 325 Bristol St., Costa Mesa. For those interested, seats are still available. Please contact Mr. Sherwood for more information.

**3.0 CONSENT CALENDAR**

**3.1 Approval Item**

**3.1 Approve February 27, 2007 Meeting Minutes**

**Item 4.3, TCM Update:** This incorrectly identifies Jean Mazur as AQMD staff. This should be FHWA.

**Roster-Via Teleconference:** Ilene Gallo, Caltrans Headquarters, asked that the spelling of her first name be corrected.

Chair McAllester made a MOTION to MOVE the minutes. MOTION was SECONDED and UNANIMOUSLY approved.

**4.0 INFORMATION ITEMS**

**4.1 RTP Update**

Naresh Amatya, SCAG, updated the committee on a new Amendment to the 2004 RTP involving Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) projects. In November of 2006, the voters of California approved Proposition 1B, a \$20 billion state bond measure to support transportation infrastructure improvements throughout the state. \$4.5 billion was set aside from Measure 1B for the CMIA program, which focuses on improving mobility, connectivity and safety on major California highways. The

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California Transportation Commission (CTC) adopted the funding program for CMIA projects on February 28, 2007.

Mr. Amatya explained that projects that are funded through the CMIA program must be consistent with the existing Regional Transportation Plans. While most of the projects that were approved for funding under this program came out of SCAG's current 2004 RTP, there were a couple of new projects and several that have minor changes in project scope, cost or schedule, thus necessitating an amendment to the 2004 RTP. In addition to those changes, SCAG also received several amendment requests from Caltrans and the county transportation commissions to accommodate other time sensitive project changes.

Staff plans on taking the Amendment to the TCC in May and requests that the Committee authorize staff to release a draft of the Amendment and get it adopted by the end of June. The proposed Amendment will be submitted to FHWA for certification under the pre-SAFETEA-LU statute since the 2004 RTP does not currently conform to the requirements of SAFETEA-LU. The statutory deadline to make changes to the current RTP under the old statute is July 1, 2007. Therefore, SCAG must adopt and submit this amendment to FHWA prior to this date. In order to meet this deadline, a draft of this Amendment must be released for a 30-day Public Review by early May.

Arnie Sherwood, ITS UC Berkley/SCAG, raised one concern. Mr. Sherwood stated that in a meeting with Sue Kaiser, FHWA, the deadline for submittal was June 1<sup>st</sup>, not July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007. Mr. Amatya said he would work with Ms. Kaiser to verify the actual date of submittal.

#### **4.2    RTIP Update**

John Asuncion, SCAG, stated that the RTIP Gap Analysis was currently in its 30-day public review period, which ends on Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>. SCAG will seek approval from the Regional Council (RC) on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Staff will then transmit the analysis to the federal agencies for their approval.

Staff is also in the process of reviewing approximately 500 projects from all 6 counties. The process will be split into three parts: 1) administrative; 2)

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formal; and 3) CMIA/STIP augmentation. The deadline to submit this to Caltrans and FHWA is June 1.

Mr. Asuncion confirmed that RTIP Amendment #4 was approved Monday, March 26, 2007.

**4.3     AQMP Update**

Eyvonne Sells, SCAQMD, announced the schedule for the Regional Public Hearings for the 2007 South Coast AQMP. The hearings will be held throughout the 4 counties as follows:

<b>Tues., April 17, 2007 - 9:30 a.m.</b> Riverside Convention Center 3443 Orange Street - Riverside, CA	<b>Thurs., April 19, 2007 - 9:30 a.m.</b> San Fernando Council Chambers 117 N. Macneil Street - San Fernando, CA
<b>Tues., April 17, 2007 - 2:00 p.m.</b> San Bernardino County Department of Behavioral Health 850 E. Foothill Boulevard - Rialto, CA	<b>Thurs., April 19, 2007 - 2:00 p.m.</b> Long Beach Public Library Auditorium 101 Pacific Avenue - Long Beach, CA
<b>Wed., April 18, 2007 - 9:30 a.m.</b> Santa Ana Council Chambers 22 Civic Center Plaza - Santa Ana, CA	<b>Fri., May 4, 2007 - 9:00 a.m.</b> AQMD, Auditorium 21865 Copley Drive - Diamond Bar, CA

Written comments will be accepted for the April 17 hearings until April 7. The deadline for written comments for the April 18<sup>th</sup> hearing is April 8. The deadline for written comments for the April 19 hearings is due April 9.

The Draft 2007 South Coast AQMP is scheduled to be considered for adoption by the SCAQMD Governing Board on May 4<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m., at SCAQMD headquarters in Diamond Bar. The deadline for comments is April 24.

Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, announced that there will be a workshop on the AQMPs being prepared by the air districts in the SCAG region on April 5 (9:30 a.m.) at SCAG headquarters. SCAG staff has invited representatives of the local air districts of the SCAG region and ARB to give presentations

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to the SCAG Regional Council and Policy Committees. A question and answer period will follow the discussion.

**4.5    Review of Qualitative PM Hot Spot Analysis**

The TCWG considered one project for discussion, Qualitative PM Hot Spot Analysis Review for the I-5 HOV Widening Project (LA0D73 and 10167). Arnie Sherwood stated that the analysis discusses several project alternatives, but not a Locally Preferred Alternative. Mr. Sherwood stated that a Preferred Alternative must be selected and modeled in the RTP prior to FHWA conformity determination. Mr. Sherwood asked if performing a Qualitative PM Hot Spot Analysis Review was premature if the Preferred Alternative has not been selected.

Ron Kosinski, Caltrans, responded that the preferred alternative is currently being discussed. FHWA believes it will be selecting the 10-Lane Alternative, which is consistent with the RTP. Mr. Sherwood responded if the Preferred Alternative is included in the existing RTP, then FHWA can provide conformity determination. However, if the Preferred Alternative is not in the existing RTP, an RTP Amendment may be required.

A determination of the adequacy of this qualitative hot spot analysis is still pending review from Mike Brady (Caltrans), Jean Mazur (FHWA), and Karina O'Connor (EPA), who were not in attendance for this portion of the meeting. Jonathan Nadler, SCAG, stated that he would initiate a "virtual" subgroup review, next week, to determine if the document is acceptable for NEPA circulation.

**4.6    Review of PM Hot Spot Interagency Review Forms**

The TCWG considered one interagency review form to determine whether the project was of air quality concern and required a qualitative PM Hot Spot analysis. The review concluded the following:

ORA020108 – hot spot analysis not required

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**5.0    CHAIR'S REPORT**

No new items to report.

**6.0    INFORMATION SHARING**

The Statewide Conformity Working Group will be held May 23 at the SCAQMD headquarters in Diamond Bar. There will be a shuttle service from the Ontario Airport to the meeting. Assistance for hotel accommodations will be provided by the SCAQMD. Eyvonne Sells, SCAQMD, will be the primary contact person. Her contact information is as follows:

Eyvonne Sells  
SCAQMD  
Phone: 909.396.3287  
E-mail: [esells@aqmd.gov](mailto:esells@aqmd.gov)

**7.0    ADJOURNMENT**

Brad McAllester, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 11:10 p.m.

**The next Transportation Conformity Working Group meeting will be held on  
Tuesday, April 24, 2007 at the SCAG office in Los Angeles.**